



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC-NORTH MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BRIBERY IN ROCKHURST CONTRACTS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to bribe a former director of the physical plant at Rockhurst University in order to receive nearly \$1 million in contracts for demolition and asbestos removal.

Charles A. Cacioppo, Jr., 51, of Kansas City-North, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to a federal indictment that charges him with conspiracy, bribery and mail fraud. A trial on the remaining charges, including additional defendants charged in the indictment, is scheduled to begin Monday, June 7, 2004.

Cacioppo admitted his guilt in 18 counts of the federal indictment, which are related to a bribery conspiracy that involved contracts awarded by Rockhurst University to Industrial Salvage and Wrecking, Inc. (ISW), which is owned by **Cacioppo**, and to Industrial Environmental Management, Inc. (IEM), which is co-owned by **Cacioppo**. **Cacioppo** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to commit bribery and mail fraud to defraud Rockhurst University.

ISW and IEM would submit invoices to Rockhurst charging more than the value of the work performed, Graves explained, and charging Rockhurst for projects that were never performed. **Cacioppo** bribed Ralph Dunn, the school's former physical plant director, in order to receive various demolition and asbestos abatement projects. Dunn pleaded guilty on Sept. 24, 2003, to defrauding Rockhurst by taking more than \$100,000 in bribes as part of a kickback scheme, and to filing a false tax return.

From May 1998 to June 2001, ISW received \$697,215 in payments from Rockhurst. During this time, ISW paid approximately \$102,600 in bribes to Dunn. From June 1999 to June 2001, IEM received \$232,969 in payments from Rockhurst. During this time, IEM paid approximately \$21,200 in bribes to Dunn.

Cacioppo pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud. He admitted that, as part of that conspiracy, he caused a letter to be mailed from ISW to Rockhurst University, concerning the demolition of a building located at 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, Mo. **Cacioppo**, mailed a \$2,000 cashier's check to Dunn as the final payment in the fraud scheme.

Cacioppo pleaded guilty to 16 counts of bribery. He admitted paying 16 separate bribes to Dunn in the course of the conspiracy, between Aug. 24, 1998, and June 12, 2001. Those bribes were allegedly for demolition and other work done at several properties owned by Rockhurst, as well as work done at Xavier and Loyola dormitories, at Masseman Hall and Cochran Hall, and a football field between 53rd and 54th streets in Kansas City, Mo.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Paul S. Becker and Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Labor – Office of Labor Racketeering, the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, and the Defense Contract Investigative Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow